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wherein the liquid-pervious surface layer within the wetting region is constituted of hydrophilic absorbent material that is adapted to retain moisture, at least at the surface of the liquid-pervious surface layer which is intended to be facing the user during use so as to maintain the mucous membranes of the user moist, and that remaining parts of the liquid-pervious surface layer are constituted of a hydrophobic material.

Please add the following new claims:

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--16. A method for maintaining a mucous membrane of a user moist with an absorbent article, the absorbent article including an absorbent body, a liquid impervious layer, and a liquid pervious layer, the liquid pervious layer constituting both a hydrophobic material and a hydrophilic absorbent material, where the hydrophilic absorbent material forms a wetting region of the liquid pervious layer, the absorbent body being enclosed between the liquid pervious layer and the liquid impervious layer, the method comprising:  
wearing the absorbent article such that the wetting region is adjacent the mucous membrane of the user and the wetting region receives body fluids emitted from the user;  
retaining at least a portion of the body fluids in the hydrophilic absorbent material;  
and

~~maintaining the mucous membrane of the user moist with the body fluids retained in~~  
the hydrophilic absorbent material of the wetting region.

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